



## State of Connecticut

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Testimony in Support of C.B. 5177, An Act Concerning Employers and  
Notice of Available Federal Earned Income Tax Credits  
Before the Labor Committee  
Public Hearing February 17, 2009

Thanks for raising this bill. According to testimony before the Select Committee on Children and the Child Poverty and Prevention Council, Connecticut residents are under-collecting the federal Earned Income Tax Credit (EITC), an IRS tax credit for the working poor, in comparison to our neighboring states. We estimate the rate of under-collection is 10%, equal to about \$16 million. This is a source of federal dollars that we urgently need in our present economic situation.

The EITC produces a substantial check to working poor adults, if they are aware they are eligible. This check is re-invested in the community through such payments as rent, groceries, community college tuition and vehicle repair. The CT Department of Labor has been helpful in reaching out to try and educate residents.

While attending a legislative conference, I learned of another technique from a Louisiana state senator who had some success using employer notices to inform workers of this credit. The Department of Labor's web site could make available a posted notice and the employer would simply print out a copy. This is the way I post labor notices for free in my own small office. Required employer posting is an easy way to help low wage Connecticut workers collect a federal tax credit that would really help them, their families, and the community in our difficult economic recession.